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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [BU](#)
SUBJECT: UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL: BULGARIA UNDERSTANDS BUT
SORRY TO SEE US GO

REF: STATE 61034

(SBU) We delivered reftel demarche to head of MFA Human Rights Department Dimitar Philipov on June 10. Philipov said he understood our decision but was sad that the USG would no longer participate in the sessions. The democracies need U.S. leadership: "The EU without the U.S. is not a strong performer." Bulgaria will stay in the Council to "make its voice heard," though without the U.S. the Council's decisions will be "even more one-sided." Philipov thought the General Assembly's planned review of the HRC would be the best opportunity to try to restructure it.
Beyrle